

Amendment to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0054] with the following amended paragraph:

[0054] The functional interaction of the antibodies of the present invention with TBP-II provides also a new diagnostic tool, based on immunoassays such as radioimmunoassay, ELISA etc., for the detection of over- or under-production of TBP-II by cells in the body in certain disorders. Thus, the level of TBP-II in sera of patients with different types of cancer or suffering from autoimmune disorders—, such as systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), can be determined this way. In an inverse approach, antibodies against TBP-II, when produced endogenously in the body, will be measured with the use of purified TBP-II. Detecting such autoantibodies, when formed in certain autoimmune disorders, is of extreme importance, since their ability to mimic or inhibit the effects of TNF surely has far-reaching bearing on the pathological syndromes of said disorders.

Please replace paragraph [0086] with the following amended paragraph:

[0086] The levels of TBP-II in the sera of healthy individuals, patients with cancer or systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and of pregnant women at term were

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determined by an ELISA method employing a monoclonal antibody to TBP-~~IO~~-II coating the plates. 50 µl of each sample was added and after a 2.5 hr incubation at 37°C the wells were washed with a solution of PBS, TWEEN 0.05% and sodium azide 0.02%, after which a rabbit anti-TBP-II polyclonal antibody was added for 2.5 hr at 37°C. Then the wells were washed again (no azide) and goat anti-rabbit horseradish peroxidase-coupled antibody was added for 2 hr. Following this incubation, and washing, an ABTS buffer was added and optical density (O.D.) read 30 min. later at 600 nm.